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Chairman: Mr. Fernandez ..... (Honduras)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

1. **The Chairman** announced that the President of the General Assembly had requested the Chairmen of all the Main Committees to ensure that the negotiation of draft resolutions did not lead to the preparation of duplicative reports. In so doing, the President had been responding to the appeal for the streamlining of reports made to Member States by the Secretary-General in his report "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387). He therefore relied on the cooperation of all delegations with regard to that question which, as everyone knew, had an impact on the Organization's financial situation.

General Debate

2. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the world economy had not evolved as forecast a year earlier. Although an economic recovery had started in the industrialized economies, there was a serious deficiency of domestic demand in Japan and the United States, and a the financial crisis had hit Latin America, seriously jeopardizing prospects for growth. Assessments of the growth of the global economy had thus been revised downward for 2002 and even 2003. There were three reasons for that situation: first, the geopolitical situation in some regions could have effects on the economies of all countries, particularly the developing countries; second, all the consequences of the fall in assets price were not yet known, and domestic consumption might plummet; third, there were still large trade imbalances, the financial and banking systems of many countries were fragile, and debt and fiscal difficulties persisted in developing countries. The large number of natural disasters which had occurred in the past year and had impacted the economy of some countries, should likewise be borne in mind.

3. Following the events of 11 September 2001, many had feared that the international community, would be too busy fighting terrorism to devote time to development problems. The scheduled conferences had nevertheless taken place and produced results, although much remained to be done. The Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Doha, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, and other events as well had set certain what already was being called a "new multilateralism". In the past, a distinction had been drawn between multilateralism, a set of procedural rules for trade and financing considered outside the framework of the United Nations *stricto sensu*, and international cooperation for development, a form of substantive action, that fell primarily within the purview of the United Nations. However, that distinction had now become blurred because international cooperation for development was becoming increasingly subject to procedural rules.

4. The United Nations conferences of the past ten years had sought to shape the multilateral trade and financing system. The rounds of international trade negotiations should now be viewed not only as a means of financing the rules of trade liberalization, but also as a means of promoting development and reducing disparities among nations. The Doha and Monterrey conferences, in particular, had increased the convergence between multilateralism and international cooperation for development. The Monterrey Conference had sought to change the way in which the global financial system was viewed. Four years previously, macroeconomic policy coordination had been seen as something largely within the remit of the international financial institutions and WTO. Even three years earlier, it had not seemed possible to hold a major conference on finance for development under United Nations auspices, in which heads of State and Governments would participate. Yet it was currently recognized that the United Nations was a crucial part of the whole process of macroeconomic policy coordination. The challenge facing the Second Committee was to determine how to follow up on the Monterrey Conference, which had recognized a certain role for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Given the outcome of the Conference, it might be advisable to consider the issues holistically and to inject the concerns of development into financial policy.

5. The Johannesburg Summit was somewhat different, since it had focused mainly on the implementation of past decisions. Initiatives had already been taken regarding sustainable consumption and production. In that area, Johannesburg had gone much further than Agenda 21, because it called for a 10-year programme on sustainable consumption and touched on many areas such as energy, biological

diversity, and so on. Work on sustainable development did not consist simply in setting up policy frameworks for developing countries, but also in setting up frameworks conveying the way in which development was pursued in the richer countries. A main contribution of Johannesburg was the specificity of targets and timetables.

6. The programme initiatives announced by the United Nations were often incorporated in partnership projects. Partnerships had originated from the idea of tapping into the dynamism and innovation which existed in local sustainable development projects. They had also originated from the need to bring donors and recipient countries together at the time of programme formulation and not when the money had to flow. Partnerships could not be a substitute for intergovernmentally agreed programmes of action, but they were an important adjunct in project implementation. United Nations policy frameworks should influence not only the actions of public authorities, but also that of all actors having an impact on sustainable development.

7. During the past 10 years, the economic and social work of the United Nations had become more credible and more visible, because the Organization had engaged civil society in conferences dealing with the issues involved. Thus, international civil society had played an essential role in the shaping of the Organization's work, particularly in the adoption of Agenda 21. International relations were currently more complex because they were influenced by that same civil society.

8. Future United Nations conferences should focus on the implementation of decisions already taken, even if past conferences had been unable to reach a consensus on a number of questions, particularly globalization and new technologies and their transfer. It was also necessary to follow up and monitor the implementation of the outcome of all conferences at the national and international levels, so as to ensure coherence. Moreover, as the Secretary-General emphasized in his report on the strengthening of the Organization (A/57/387), it was important to reduce the number of reports and meetings within the framework of that follow-up and monitoring process, because the Organization's resources were limited.

9. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said he too would try to define the current situation. The year had been marked by commitments made with a view to the initiation of a new era. Following the Millennium development targets, laid down in the Millennium Declaration of 2000, the two major conferences held in Monterrey and Johannesburg symbolized the hope of the Group of 77 that a new economic order would take shape. Indeed, if the commitments undertaken were honoured and if the General Assembly, now and in the future, lent them its support, international cooperation could be strengthened and international economic relations transformed.

10. The situation was not very encouraging. The economic difficulties facing the developed countries placed the developing countries in an even more precarious position. Innovative means must therefore be found in order to channel resources and technologies in the promotion of development. That major challenge must be taken up if the current gaps were not to become permanent and compromise the credibility of the multilateral system. The Group of 77 invited the developed countries to adopt economic policies that favoured the resumption of economic growth and guaranteed greater worldwide stability and to reaffirm their political will to work for development.

11. Globalization had given those problems another dimension: new avenues had opened up, but the benefits of globalization were unevenly distributed. If the developed countries did not act to reverse that trend, the problems of the developing countries would get worse and become permanent. The Group of 77 therefore urged the international community to make the international economic order more equitable by allowing the developing countries to participate in decision-making and to benefit from globalization.

12. Trade was one of the engines of development. It was therefore important to modify the world trade system so that the needs and interests of the developing countries were placed high on the agenda of the World Trade Organization (WTO). WTO should play a greater role in boosting growth and ensuring that all countries, but especially the developing countries, enjoyed its benefits. To that end, the developing countries should be given greater access to the markets of developed countries, and the protectionist use of anti-dumping and compensatory measures should be eliminated. At its fourth session, held in Doha, the Ministerial Conference of WTO had created grounds for hope in

that area, but the progress made thus far remained insufficient.

13. The International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey) had made it possible to bring the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations closer together, and to tackle the development question comprehensively, so as to make it a global priority. The very fact that the Conference had been held was an achievement in itself. Nevertheless, the Conference was only the beginning of a process aimed at accelerating and facilitating capital flows to developing countries and improving the financing of sustainable development.

14. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg) had originated from the international community's realization that the objectives set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) had not been attained. It had been marked by the adoption of a Plan of Implementation, which showed how important it was to strengthen international cooperation in order to change production and consumption patterns, to adopt integrated management of natural resources and to reaffirm the objectives of Agenda 21. The General Assembly should apply the Summit's conclusions. The Group of 77 therefore appealed to the international community to act to ensure the application of the Plan of Implementation. Recognition of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund for poverty eradication and recognition of the World Environment Fund (WEF) as a means of financing the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, were examples of specific actions which must be backed up by political will and practical measures if they were to have any impact.

15. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) represented a major step for a whole developing continent. It needed all the cooperation and all the support of the international community. The Group of 77 therefore approved of the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and urged the international community to help implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries 2001-2010 and the Brussels Declaration (A/CONF.191/12).

16. The World Summit on the Information Society (scheduled to be held in December 2003) would tackle many questions relating to information and communication. The Group of 77 hoped that that Summit would provide an opportunity to adopt a declaration of principles and a plan of action aimed at favouring effective development of the information society and at helping to reduce the digital divide.

17. The General Assembly should address the major challenge which consisted in implementing all the commitments undertaken by the United Nations in the economic and social area. It was up to the United Nations to ensure that multilateral diplomacy was recognized as an essential tool of economic, social and environmental development and as proof of international solidarity in the struggle for a better world.

18. **Ms. Løj** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, indicated that the central and eastern European countries associated with the European Union, namely, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Associated Countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, as well as Iceland, a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), associated themselves with her statement.

19. Reviewing the events of the year 2002, she drew attention to the success of the Ministerial Conference of the WTO (Doha) and the Monterrey and Johannesburg conferences, both of which had dealt with issues that were at the heart of the Second Committee's work: sustainable development, poverty eradication and sustained economic growth. It was also the year when a new partnership for sustainable development was being forged, in which the Second Committee was to play a vital part and help to make globalization inclusive and equitable.

20. The European Union believed that the Millennium Declaration constituted the overarching policy framework for the economic and social work of the United Nations. The Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Summit provided concrete and measurable targets in the economic, social and environmental areas. The United Nations, in concert with other institutions, in particular those of Bretton Woods and the WTO, should lead in the implementation of those goals without further delay.

21. The Second Committee must assert its relevance in that process and in giving effect to the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the Monterrey and Johannesburg Conferences. The European Union therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to strengthen the United Nations, as laid out in his recent report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387). Those efforts on the Secretariat side, however, had to be complemented by the intergovernmental side through the General Assembly and the Second and Third Committees. The Second Committee should draft precise resolutions in the areas of its competence and review its working methods in the interest of greater impact, while avoiding overlap.

22. The Second Committee should first of all focus on the coherence of policies and on providing support for implementation efforts at the national level based on strategies for combating poverty, stimulating national development and ensuring application of the outcomes of the conferences and of the United Nations framework plan for development assistance. In that regard, it reiterated its support for the programme of the African Union (NEPAD).

23. The European Union also believed that the Committee should ensure a coherent follow-up to the Millennium Declaration as well as the Monterrey, Johannesburg and other major United Nations conferences.

24. To that end the role of the General Assembly also needed to be strengthened in cooperation with ECOSOC in that follow-up in the new spirit of partnership with the stakeholders, in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and WTO. Attention should necessarily be devoted to the preparations for the high-level dialogue to be conducted by the General Assembly with the participation of representatives of the private sector and civil society.

25. The European Union had on several occasions expressed its commitment to the sustainable development agenda of the United Nations and to the efforts to implement it. The Union hoped that the work of the Committee would show how committed it was to continue along the path that it had correctly chosen last year.

26. **Mr. Zinser** (Mexico) said that the implementation of the new agenda for sustainable development could be measured by concrete results, and that accountability to the international community should be mandatory. Consequently, it was necessary to establish outcome indicators of progress achieved, to account for difficulties encountered and to determine what should be done in order to remedy omissions.

27. His country considered that the high-level political dialogue between ECOSOC, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO (April 2002) should take that priority into account.

28. In Monterrey, the international community had shown that it wished to adopt a new approach to the main themes of development financing by targeting optimal coherence in the concerted efforts. The Monterrey Consensus should serve as a guide for a model for a world economic order in which globalization would benefit everyone and development could be achieved everywhere.

29. A first step had been taken in the difficult but ineluctable establishment of a great world partnership to finance development in which the United Nations should play a major role by giving priority to development and poverty eradication. The effort should be accomplished within the framework of increased cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions, the WTO and the competent regional and international organizations.

30. Multilateral institutions and mechanisms should be modernized to enable them to respond to the requirements of the 21st century and to remedy the deep inequalities among economies at different development levels. For that reason, it was important to increase the participation of developing countries in decision-making. The Ministerial Conference of the WTO, which Mexico was honoured to host, would offer an ideal opportunity for the international community to take measures against protectionist threats and to give practical effect to the priority that it attributed to development.

31. One of the Second Committee's work priorities was to ensure the follow-up of the Monterrey Consensus on two fronts: restarting the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly and improving its own working methods. Mexico suggested combining the various Second Committee resolutions on themes that had been already included in the Monterrey agenda in a single politically oriented resolution.

32. The Second Committee should also assert its determination to honour the commitments assumed at the Johannesburg Summit according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, by devoting all necessary attention to the following questions, among other priorities:

(a) Conservation of biological diversity, fair and equitable share of the benefits which ensued from the use of genetic resources;

(b) Sustainable management of water resources and energy sources;

(c) Reduction of world vulnerability to climatic changes by resolute support of the Kyoto Protocol;

(d) Formulation of a comprehensive strategy for preventing and dealing with natural disasters.

33. Mexico was in favour of multilateralism as described by the Secretary-General in his recent report (A/57/387) and was prepared to do its best to participate in a working partnership that would guarantee the full implementation of the commitments accepted in the Millennium Declaration, in Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg.

34. **Ms. Ndhlovu** (South Africa) said that the past year had been characterized by two particularly important international development events, to wit, the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The commitments that emerged from those events, the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, embodied the goals agreed upon by the international community during the major international conferences held in the nineties and the Millennium Summit. It was essential that those goals be achieved. The Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation represented a new commitment in that regard. The Johannesburg Summit had reflected the opportunity to reaffirm that poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns and the management of natural resources were central to the achievement of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation set new targets in areas critical to poverty eradication, such as increasing access to water and energy, human settlements, or even sanitation, agriculture and fisheries. There were other important decisions, including the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund and the negotiation of a new international regime governing biodiversity. The participants had concluded that sustainable development could not become a reality without capacity-building, transfer of technology, provision of financial resources and changes in the terms of international trade. The Summit had also demonstrated the importance of collaboration between Governments and major groups. It would be important to implement the various partnership initiatives announced in Johannesburg.

35. The Committee would also deal with the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, and should, for instance, restart the high-level dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development. Meanwhile, it should not lose sight of recent developments in the global economic environment and how those developments impact on the financing of development. Moreover, the Doha Ministerial Conference of the WTO had recognized the importance of placing the needs of developing countries at the centre of the multilateral trading system. The implementation of the Doha outcomes should be balanced and should address the concerns of developing countries.

36. The past year had also been marked by the inauguration of the African Union, and had confirmed NEPAD as a programme for the socio-economic regeneration of Africa replacing the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990's (UN-NADAF) as a development policy framework in the continent. Her delegation was, however, conscious of the fact that poverty and underdevelopment were not unique to Africa, and it was determined to demonstrate solidarity with and essential support of other developing countries. Lastly, with regard to the preparations for the World Summit on Information Society, which were included in the Committee's agenda, her delegation believed that the Summit should address the key teleprocessing concerns of developing countries.

37. **Mr. Slade** (Samoa), speaking on behalf of the 37 member countries of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) which were members of the United Nations, explained the position of the group of countries he was representing, which were all developing countries. At the international level, 2002 had been particularly notable in the context of international efforts to realize the millennium

development goals: the Monterrey Consensus had been adopted in March and a plan to implement sustainable development in every country had been formulated in Johannesburg in September. One of the main goals was to halve extreme poverty by 2015, since more than half the world's population was living on less than $2 a day. In that connection, there were four central objectives: aid should be increased and made more effective; developed counties should renew their commitment to reduce trade barriers; capital flows should reach emerging markets; and developing countries, particularly the small island States, should have a stronger voice in the world's financial institutions.

38. The political commitments and direction provided by Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action (A/CONF.167/9) had been used as the benchmark for measuring progress over the preceding 10 years. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, drafted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, was designed to formalize the Rio agreements at the global level, and its significant feature was the definition of implementation in terms of specific regions and areas with common characteristics. For instance, there was a separate plan for Africa with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and Chapter VII was devoted to the sustainable development of the small island developing States.

39. Chapter VII emphasized the importance of the Barbados Programme of Action and provided for a full and comprehensive review of its implementation in 2004, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Barbados Conference, and recommended that, at its fifty-seventh session, the General Assembly should consider convening an international meeting for the sustainable development of small island developing States. The Barbados Programme of Action had been the first global example of the practical implementation of Agenda 21: it was dedicated to a group of countries that were particularly vulnerable both ecologically and economically. The priorities it identified were still valid and, if anything, more urgent than ever on account, inter alia, of the deterioration of the global environment, exacerbated by urbanization, population, poverty and problems with governance in the developing countries. Climate change, a problem that directly affected the very existence of some island States, was seriously underestimated by the international community. Adaptation measures were needed to minimize the vulnerability of the small island developing States and to assist those low-lying islands that were already in danger. In addition, the world's energy system was not unsustainable, whereas renewable energy sources held out real promise. The countries of AOSIS were disappointed that no target date had been set in Johannesburg for increasing the use of renewable energy; however, they fully supported the European Union initiative. Lastly, matters relating to the oceans had been given consideration in the Johannesburg Plan; the countries of AOSIS were pleased with the consultative process, which had placed ocean-related problems high on the agenda of the General Assembly, and were of the opinion that it should continue.

40. The progress made showed the fundamental importance of capacity-building for the future of the small island States. The current challenge was to develop an initiative on a larger scale than the Capacity 21 Trust Fund, which would be able to respond to capacity-building needs in all sectors of sustainable development. The AOSIS countries had benefited from the activities of organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank, and was aware of the exceptional value of regional cooperation. It was therefore necessary to implement a system of partnerships based on effective regional and subregional institutions, which would be responsive to the immediate and long-term needs of people in the developing world.

41. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt) said that poverty eradication and sustainable development were the common responsibility of the North and the South and that objectives set at the intergovernmental level should be achieved through the establishment of relations based on participation and international cooperation. Globalization was the source of problems that were threatening to cause a crisis of confidence and a lack of authority among multilateral bodies and, in addition, poverty levels and inequality in terms of income distribution were worsening. An objective analysis of the situation showed imbalances, poverty and a lack of democracy in decision-making, particularly with regard to monetary policies, which could bring about the economic collapse of the developing countries and cancel out several decades' worth of economic progress in a few moments. Globalization was destined to last, and for that reason

Egypt was calling for a consensus to maximize its advantages and enable all States to receive an equal share, and to prevent its adverse effects. Developing countries did not always benefit from globalization, not only because of their policies, but also on account of structural imbalances within the global economic system. Recent experience showed that integration into the global economy was not the magic formula for development. Local and international measures were needed to revitalize efforts to improve governance, which should be given special priority. The degree of transparency in decision-making within international institutions should also be increased. Joint international action was vital if development, a collective responsibility of the countries of both the North and the South at the ethical, human and political levels, was to be achieved. The integration of United Nations policies with those of the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO) proved that it was now vital to undertake joint action to break the vicious circle that was preventing the achievement of the objectives set by the various United Nations summits and conferences and the Charter of the United Nations.

42. Egypt considered it essential that the United Nations should play a pivotal role in integrating development policies by mobilizing efforts to achieve sustainable development for all. United Nations resolutions concerning the economy were not effectively implemented: efforts should be made to ensure that they were not simply a moral commitment, easily ignored and scorned. Action was needed, or the credibility of multilateral cooperation would be threatened, as already evidenced by the decrease in resources allotted to operational activities. The goal of sustainable development for all required the resolution of the developing countries' debt problems, cooperation in areas of primary concern to them, namely agriculture, textiles and clothing, an understanding of the reasons for instability in commodity prices and an increase in official development assistance in such a way as to respect internationally fixed levels. The developed countries should transfer the necessary technology to the developing countries and provide them with technical assistance in order to bridge the information gap, which posed a serious threat to development efforts.

43. The Millennium Summit, the WTO Ministerial Conference at Doha, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development were the most recent manifestations of the international community's commitment to the concept of sustainable development. The resolutions and other instruments adopted at those conferences must be implemented. History would not judge on good intentions, but on success. The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development had responded to the hopes of the developing countries, particularly the African countries, by keeping up the momentum of the Millennium Summit, the Monterrey Conference and the Doha meeting. The decisions taken at Johannesburg represented a new contract between developed and developing countries and marked a new phase in international cooperation.

44. At the beginning of the General Assembly session the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative had been presented; it had been developed by Africans for Africans based on a global vision of the continent's problems and the hopes of the African people and their political leaders for a better future. NEPAD was committed to respecting all the economic, social, political and environmental factors and developing institutional mechanisms in such a way that the partnerships went beyond a declaration of intent and became a sign of shared responsibility, through the recognition of Africa's specific characteristics in the context of ambitious programmes that respected development priorities.

45. To enable Africa to achieve the Millennium Declaration goal of halving the number of people living on less than $1 a day by 2015, some countries would have to achieve economic growth of at least 7 per cent. That would not be possible until the internal reforms of the African States were complemented by the developed countries' efforts to remove the barriers to African exports and enable Africa to obtain a fair share of financial flows. It was also necessary to solve the external debt problem which had a strangle-hold on certain countries. The Second Committee's programme of work for the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly was considerable, but Egypt believed that it would be able to take up the various challenges and assume its responsibilities when it considered the draft resolutions before it.

46. **Mr. Nambiar** (India) said that although the discussions at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in

Johannesburg had been fruitful, having led to the definition of jointly agreed mandates and a programme of action, they had not fulfilled India's expectations, particularly concerning the level of commitment required from the international community to achieve the millennium development goals and the eradication of poverty. To achieve the goal of halving by 2015 the proportion of people suffering from hunger, a minimum of US$ 24 billion would be required annually. The international community had made no commitment to provide those resources at the aforementioned summits or during the five-year review of the World Food Summit.

47. It was time to move into the implementation phase and translate the commitments made into practical actions, since the important target date of 2015 was only 12 years away. Inaction was inconceivable and unjustifiable.

48. At the Monterrey Conference, for the first time, the complex and diverse aspects of financing for development had been addressed in a holistic manner, and it was hoped that the funds pledged and announced by the developed countries would swiftly be made available. India had decided to cancel all bilateral debt owed to it by the heavily indebted poor countries. It would continue to take part in the financing for development process, in which the broadest possible range of stakeholders, particularly the institutional stakeholders, should participate. Discussions were currently taking place in the Economic and Social Council and in the Bretton Woods institutions about the follow-up to that conference. It was necessary to finalize details relating to how the General Assembly's high-level dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development would focus on the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

49. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, States had reiterated their resolve to achieve the goals of sustainable development and to implement Agenda 21 on the basis of the Rio principles, in particular that of "common but differentiated responsibility". India welcomed the inclusion of a sanitation target and the decision to establish the World Solidarity Fund: the modalities for its establishment should be finalized during the present session of the General Assembly. Rapid decisions should also be taken on the commitment to negotiate, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, an international regime to ensure the fair sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

50. Sustainable development should be pursued at the national level. India was integrating sustainable development into its development plans. It was imperative that the international community should support the efforts of developing countries in that regard. The Johannesburg Summit had been disappointing, since the developed countries had not made specific and time-bound commitments to provide substantial financial resources and to transfer environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries. With a view to the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development should be drafted as soon as possible.

51. WTO negotiations on development questions had made very little progress since the Doha Ministerial Meeting. If the so-called Doha Development Agenda was to be achieved, as many hoped it would be, the developing countries' concerns about market access for their products and services in developed countries, particularly in the areas of agriculture, textiles and clothing, freedom of movement for persons, the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and issues regarding the implementation and operationalization of the special and differential provisions must be addressed. Developing countries should not be expected to make commitments that were not commensurate with their level of development while subsidies and other protectionist measures imposed by the developed countries continued or even increased. India also believed that problems not directly linked to trade, such as those relating to the labour force, the environment and investments, should not be linked to trade liberalization.

52. The recovery of the global economy had been slower than expected, and had resulted in reduced trade opportunities and diminished foreign direct investments. Official development assistance levels had reached a ceiling of 0.22 per cent of the GNP of the developed countries, which had led to a contraction in external financial flows to developing countries and had resulted in a drop in the growth rates of those countries. Therefore, it was extremely important to include the development dimension in the agendas of the multilateral bodies dealing with trade, monetary and financial issues. India reiterated its call for the full

participation of the developing countries in the global decision-making and economic norm-setting processes. Good corporate governance was another question that required urgent intervention by the international community, given the recent accounting irregularities practised by a number of businesses.

53. India welcomed the debate on NEPAD and also welcomed about the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, which should increase support for the implementation of the Brussels Declaration for the least developed countries (A/CONF.191/12). India also supported the proposal to carry out a comprehensive review in 2004 of the Barbados Plan of Action for Small Island Developing States, and called for the commencement of preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation, to be held in 2003, which would enable consideration to be given to the concerns of the transit developing countries.

54. **Mr. Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The United Nations, and particularly the Second Committee, had an important role to play in promoting development. His delegation therefore believed that the Monterrey Consensus and the recently adopted action plan for sustainable development should serve as sources of inspiration for the work beginning that day.

55. The significance of those two meetings lay not only in the agreements reached, which made it possible to adapt the institutional machinery for sustainable development and cooperation, but also in the preparatory processes, which had given rise to novel arrangements. A process was beginning which involved a higher degree of coordination and coherence, not only at the intergovernmental and governmental levels but also at the inter-institutional level. There should be enhanced cooperation between civil society and Governments in order to improve efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development.

56. Therefore, over the coming months, the Second Committee should ensure that, in the areas falling within its competence, the results obtained adequately reflected the agreements and commitments adopted at both international conferences, thereby assisting the United Nations system and Member States better to implement and follow up, in a coordinated and coherent fashion, the commitments made at the conferences, bearing in mind that the Millennium Declaration remained the principal frame of reference.

57. The Second Committee should streamline its work and, in particular, simplify and improve its working methods, perhaps by regrouping certain clearly interrelated agenda items, and reduce the number of reports, which were sometimes of poor quality and not sufficiently comprehensive or concise. Reports submitted to the Second Committee should be genuine tools enabling it to achieve better results.

58. **Mr. Yusop** (Malaysia) noted that two major summits devoted to important and interrelated issues had been held in 2002. Those issues had been addressed from different perspectives, but there had been a common willingness to fulfil the pledges made and to ensure their full respect.

59. The challenge was enormous. The international community must take a critical look at what needed to be done and muster the necessary political will to translate the various ideas and proposals into concrete measures. It must look beyond the sterile game of finger-pointing, which benefited no one. The Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation had examined all the priority issues and had reiterated the urgent nature of the problems of poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. The important outcomes of those summits should now be vigorously implemented.

60. As time was short, every effort should be made at the national and regional levels to support the global diplomatic process, without ignoring the potential risk of backsliding, as evidenced by the large number of international agreements that had never been implemented. Structures should be put into place to ensure that the process moved forward and did not stagnate.

61. The Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation contained the important principle of "common but differentiated responsibility". Translating political will into practical action would require the mobilization of new and additional financial resources.

62. The United Nations must continue to serve as a forum for the attainment of the common good of all

States, not only the rich and powerful ones. It must become even more actively involved with development issues, in particular operational capacity. It must demonstrate that it could guarantee effective coordination at the macroeconomic level and ensure that its deliberations and decisions had an impact and an influence on decisions taken elsewhere. The two instruments provided a new platform for strengthening the partnerships between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, civil society, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, since eradicating poverty and preserving the earth's environment called for collective responsibility and a sustained effort from all stakeholders.

63. The development and environmental crises should be addressed collectively, as time was short. Solutions should benefit all, not only particular groups of countries. The developing countries must undertake policy reform, attract foreign investment and create an enabling environment for it. For obvious reasons, those countries could not content themselves with the principle applied by the developed countries, namely "pollution first and treatment later". The road to sustainable development should be embarked upon right from the initial, conceptual stage of the development process.

64. North-South relations remained unbalanced. In order to correct that imbalance, a genuinely mutually reinforcing partnership was required, which would entail an increase in official development assistance, new and additional resources, a favourable international financial environment, technology transfer, capacity-building, particularly in the area of human resources, and physical infrastructure development in the developing countries. Sustainable development required not only good governance at the international and national levels, but harmonization of the pattern of relations between developed and developing countries.

65. Trade was a vital component of sustainable development. Many developing countries were disenchanted with the multilateral trade system, which operated to their disadvantage. International trade was not a zero sum game. Strengthening the multilateral trade system would be in the interests of all developed and developing countries. In a rapidly globalizing world, much more had to be done to ensure that the developing countries were genuinely integrated into the world economy. To achieve that goal, market access for developing countries' products in developed countries must be improved and tariff peaks and tariff escalation reduced. The commitments made at Brussels (A/CONF.191/12) and Doha in respect of duty- or quota-free market access for products originating from the least developed countries must be fulfilled without delay.

66. Structural policies must lead to a reduction in trade barriers and an end to subsidies in the North which caused distortions in trade in the South. World trade should be one of the ways of halving poverty by 2015, which was one of the millennium development goals.

67. Willingness to achieve the goals set out in the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as with the outcomes of other United Nations summits, required a renewed spirit of international cooperation. The international community should make a firm commitment to multilateralism and make it work. The North and the South must break away from the North-South divide, which was polarizing their relations. Globalization meant that new partnerships between the North and the South, and between Governments and all stakeholders, were vitally important.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.